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INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1059
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA PRIORITY 0118
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 000150

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FOR ISN/RA, IO/T AND EAP/MTS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/05/2018

TAGS: PARM KNNP MNUC IR MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIA QUESTIONS IMPLEMENTATION OF UNSCR 1803,
CONCERNED OVER PRESSURE ON IAEA

REF: STATE 21770 - UNSCR 1803

Classified By: POLITICAL SECTION CHIEF MARK D. CLARK, REASON 1.4 (B AND D).

¶1. (C) The Malaysian Foreign Ministry's Under Secretary for Disarmament and Nonproliferation Bala Chandran Tharman stated, in reaction to reftel demarche presented by polchief March 5, that Malaysia of course would respect UN Security Council Resolution 1803 on Iran's nuclear program just as Malaysia adheres to all UNSC resolutions. Bala Chandran, however, commented that the wording of the resolution was too vague and open to wide interpretation such that the Malaysian government would not know how to implement the resolution in practical terms. Malaysian authorities, for example, would not have a clear basis for "exercising vigilance." Polchief noted that the international community would look for Malaysia's good faith efforts in enforcing UNSCR 1803, suggested that Malaysia already had established procedures for controlling the entry of foreign nationals, and mentioned the importance of Malaysia's development of an export control regime.

¶2. (C) Bala Chandran said Malaysia had concerns over undue political pressure from "certain parties" on the IAEA. The UNSC must give IAEA enough space to work and maintain its independence. Piece-meal delivery of questions and diagrams to IAEA for follow up with Iran was "not fair." The perceived pressure on the IAEA would affect the confidence of the international community in the related UNSC resolutions and impact the willingness of UN members to take action on these resolutions, Bala Chandran argued.

¶3. (C) Comment: To Post's knowledge, Malaysia has not submitted any implementation reports to the UN related to UNSCRs 1737 and 1747, and Bala Chandran admitted as much in a meeting with polchief one month ago citing his office's workload as the excuse for the delay. Malaysia as a matter of foreign policy opposes the use of sanctions. Malaysia also is actively pursuing expanded economic ties with Iran. For these reasons among others, including public sympathy for Teheran in its perceived standoff with the West, there will be no enthusiasm in the Malaysian government for tightened Iran sanctions.

KEITH